

Forum Internacional
de Acción Católica

International Forum
of Catholic Action

Forum Internazionale
di Azione Cattolica

NOTICIAS NEWSLETTER NOTIZIE

1997/1

In november 1996 (8/10th) IFCA's second meeting of the Latin-American countries was held in Asunción. I wish to share the deep joy of being all together in the diocesan house "Emmaus" for this important stage of IFCA's life, as you can learn from the final declaration (see page 3).
The first European continental meeting is going to take place in Malta during April 1997 from 4th to 6th (see page 6).

I trust that we will meet in a large number also in Buenos Aires to IFCA's second Ordinary Assembly. Pay attention to the new date: September 11-14th 1997. IFCA's Secretariat met in Buenos Aires on november 7th and drew up the programme that we are sending you as an invitation (see page 8).

The date of IFCA's Assembly was changed to september since in november is going on the special Assembly for Latin America of the Bishops' Synod, foreseen by John Paul II as a step in the journey towards the Third Millennium.

As a member of the Pontifical Council for the Laity I was asked for a contribution to enrich the "work-document" that the pre-synodal Council has to draw up for the special Assembly for Latin America.

This contribution from the CA associations of Latin America has to consider the contents and the questionnaire contained in the "Lineamenta" published in the "Osservatore Romano" - spanish edition - of September 13th 1996. The aim is to offer elements of judgement, integration, enrichment.

I wait for your contributions within February 1997 in order to be able to arrange them and hand them over.

On August 20th 1996 John Paul II accepted Cardinal Eduardo Pironio's resignation as President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity and appointed as successor H.E. Mons. James F. Stafford, Archbishop of Denver. We already expressed and are now renewing our deep gratitude and our wish (see page 2).

Still in the light of the Lord's Birthday, in this year of preparation to the great Jubilee of 2000 dedicated to Jesus Christ "the only Saviour yesterday, today, always", I send my hearty wishes to all of you, to your families, to your associations; so that, following the star as the Magi, we may announce and witness Christ to all people.

Eduardo Ramirez Cato

INDEX

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------|----|
| Salutations | page | 3 |
| Final Communication Meeting LA | page | 4 |
| European Continental Meeting | page | 6 |
| Second Ordinary Assembly | page | 8 |
| An appeal from Catholic Action at Bururi in Burundi | page | 10 |

WISHT SALUTATIONS

We are reporting here below some passages from the letters sent by IFCA Secretariat's Coordinator to H.E. Card. Eduardo F.Pironio and H.E. Mons. James F. Stafford after August 20th 1996, when the Holy Father accepted Card. Pironio's resignation and appointed Mons. Stafford as new President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

THANKS - FROM THE LETTER TO CARD. PIRONIO

You have been a very close witness of the birth and the first steps of IFCA, this organism that you have followed, encouraged and promoted. It turned out to be a positive intuition to find a space for CA at international level to continue in its apostolic service to announce the Gospel in a world where values are more and more lacking.

With God's help we wish to apply our best energies to grow and feed this seed.

At the moment you are quitting the Pontifical Council for the Laity, we do not doubt that you shall continue in giving your precious contribution to the Church and are sure that we can always rely on your support and your constant prayer.

WISHES - FROM THE LETTER TO MONS. STAFFORD

As IFCA's Coordinator and as a member of the Pontifical Council for the Laity I wish to express you my sincerest congratulations for this new step in your pastoral life and my commitment to work with you to serve the Church.

With Card. Pironio we have had a close and friendly relationship and we wish to continue in the same way with you and trust that we can rely on your support, encouragement and prayers for our work.

IFCA's Secretariat has planned a continental European meeting in Malta on April 4-6th, in preparation to the second ordinary Assembly to be held in Buenos Aires during next September. It can be a good opportunity to meet you either in Malta or in Rome.

FINAL COMMUNICATION

Meeting in Latin America

On November 8th, 9th and 10th 1996, the representatives of the CA Associations from Argentina, Bolivia, Mexico, Paraguay, Perú and Venezuela, met in Asunción. Two members from IFCA's Secretariat – Italy and Malta – and the President of the Latin–America WUCWO were also there. Though some CA Associations of Latin America were absent, we have reflected upon

Christ the Saviour yesterday, today and always (Heb 13,8)

We have also confirmed our commitment, as individuals and as Associations, for the second IFCA's ordinary Assembly to be held in Buenos Aires in 1997 (September 11th–14th). The basic topic will be

In dialogue with God, in the Church, with the world and with the cultures

During our works we participated in the celebration of Eucharist with our Pastors and ecclesiastical Assistants; we went over the positive elements and the feeble points of our CA realities in Latin America: there are lights and shadows that we have acknowledged.

We have also looked together into some attitudes of Christ which we are to assume, both as individuals and as communities, so that our feeble points may be turned into positive elements and these into planning ability. In the light of the Word of God we have gone over the themes appointed for the year 1997 in the journey towards the Great Jubilee of 2000: a programme to be followed until the Third Millennium.

Thanks to this reflection upon the situation of each Country we have undertaken some concrete commitments:

- presenting a renewed image of CA
- coming close to the ecclesiastical Hierarchy with an attitude of service
- growing more and more in quality and quantity
- deepening our lay spirituality
- inviting new laypeople, especially the youth

- promoting a meaningful presence of our members in the social context of our particular Churches
- fostering in our members a formation which may turn into life

At the end of our continental meeting we have remembered Marcelo Zapiola, from Argentina, the first coordinator of IFCA's Secretariat – who already met the Lord and continues to be an example for all of us.

We want to walk together under the protection of Mary, our Mother from Asunción: may she lead and enlighten us, to be, like her, faithful to the Lord, in our journey to establish the Kingdom of God on the earth.

Asunción, november 8–10th 1996

Second European Ecumenical Assembly



Reconciliation

God's gift and spring of new life

June 23rd–29th 1997, Graz
Austria

EUROPEAN CONTINENTAL MEETING

Christ Saviour yesterday today always

**In dialogue with God, in the Church,
with the world and the cultures**

Malta, April 4/6th 1997

Programme

Friday April 4th

- 14.00 • Arrivals
- 15.00 • Presentation of participants
- 16.00 • Eucharistic Celebration at Millietra Sanctuary
- Tea Break
- 17.45 • General introduction to Proceedings
- Analysis of questionnaires sent by member countries
- Interventions by participants from observer countries
- Review of the life of the Church in Europe
- 20.30 • Dinner

Saturday April 5th

- 9.00 • Prayers and introduction to the day's work
- 9.15 • Presentation
- Dialogue: fundamentals – styles – methods*
- 10.00 • Break
- 10.30/12.00 • Group work
- 1. dialogue with cultures, in society
- 2. dialogue within the Church
- 3. ecumenical and inter religious dialogue
- 4. formation for dialogue

- 12.15 • Plenary session for group work reports
- 13.15 • Lunch
- 15.00 • Eucharistic Celebration at St Paul's Grotto
- Visit to the catacombs and the old Medieval City of Mdina
- 18.30 • Group work
- Perspectives and concrete proposals for FIAC*
- 1. twinning;
- 2. formation;
- 3. youth;
- 4. preparations for meetings in Graz and Buenos Aires
- 20.30 • Dinner

Sunday April 6th

- 8.30 • Synthesis of group work
- Reading out of final communication
- News from FIAC in the world
- 10.00 • Island of Gozo
- Visit to Ta' Pinu Sanctuary
- Eucharistic Celebration
- 12.15 • Lunch
- 13.30 • Return to Malta and departures

TECHNICAL NOTES

Participation: IFCA's members can be present with a delegation of 3 up to 5 persons (lay and priest).

Other countries can be present with 2 persons.

Fee: The global fee amounts to 324 dollars = approx. 500.000 italian liras (120 Maltese Lire) from the lunch of April 4th to the lunch of April 6th.

For single room: supplement of 14 dollars per night, approximately 20.000 italian Lire.

Location: Paradise Bay Hotel – Cirkewwa – Malta.

Languages: Simultaneous translation in english, italian, french, german.

SECOND ORDINARY ASSEMBLY

Christ Saviour yesterday today always

In dialogue with God, in the Church, with the world and the cultures

In the ecclesial community with the participation of a laity
announcing the Gospel and in dialogue with the cultures

Buenos Aires, September 11th/14th 1997

Programme

to be completed on April 4th during the Secretariat's meeting in Malta.

Tuesday September 11th

- Arrivals

Friday September 12th

- 9.00 • Opening Eucharistic Celebration
- 10.00 • Introduction and welcome
- Presentation of the Delegations of the different countries
- Report about IFCA's activities 1994/1997
- IFCA after the Decree of acknowledgment
- 12.30 • Break and lunch
- 14.30 • Presentation of the situations of Latin America
and Europe
Reports by Argentina and Malta
- Interventions of each country
- 18.00 • Leaving for Lujan and Eucharistic Celebration
- Dinner

Saturday September 13th

- 8.30 • Eucharistic Celebration
 - 9.30 • Lecture *The Church and the World:
dialogue and path of salvation.*
CA laypeople from the Second Vatican Council
towards the Third Millennium
 - 11.00 • Mixed Workshops
 - 12.30 • Break and lunch
 - 15.00 • Continental Workshops
 - 18.00 • Plenary Session for presenting the elections
 - Elections
 - 19.30 • Dinner
- THEATER

Sunday September 14th

- 8.30 • Eucharistic Celebration
- 10.00 • Plenary Session for presenting the new Secretariat
- Workshops' reports
- Lines of IFCA's programme 1997/2000
- Final declaration
- 12.00 • Closing prayer
- Departures

AN APPEAL FROM CATHOLIC ACTION AT BURURI IN BURUNDI

Don Salvatore Niciteretse, who is priest of the Cathedral in Bururi and Assistant of the CA in that diocese, is our point of reference for the news and the proposals that you can read here below.

Now that the lights of the massmedia on the dramatic situation in Burundi have gone out, we risk that our attention may be diverted on other things, with the secrete hope that the lack of news means that all problems there have been settled and the people's condition improved.

Unfortunately it is not so and the news coming directly from Burundi show a people and a Church in great difficulty in trying to build again the possibility for the two ethnic groups to live together.

Last may don Salvatore sent us a letter denouncing the dramatic acts of violence going on in his country and in his diocese where – only in March – 300 people were killed.

Half of the 80.000 inhabitants of his parish sleep the whole night in the open air or in the churches. "Even if there is no actual war, we are all afraid, the situation is dramatic". Those who attack are armed bands of soldiers who kill hutu and tutsi – women children, old people, animals – and destroy also buildings and houses, without facing directly the regular army.

Last june don Salvatore called in Rome, bringing with him a videotape, which records:

- in the I PART the crude and violent show of what can be seen in a village after a slaughter of children, women, old people.
- In the II PART a march for the peace: an initiative proposed by CA, inviting all to participate to show faith in the peace and will to live together.

Indeed in the past hutu and tutsi did live together and to this situation they ought to return to re-build a normal living: where people can meet and dialogue no act of intolerance happens (unless from abroad).

Don Salvatore is addressing an appeal to all CA-associations, asking them:

- to help the families – very poor – who give shelter to the war-orphan and/or to AIDS-sicks;
- to help the parents who undertake to build schools near their houses where their children – hutu as well as tutsi – may attend the secondary schools without moving far away from home ("municipal schools");
- to support CA's activities: marches, formation-seminars, labour-camps for the youth.

In Burundi, at Bururi the main goal is to collaborate with the CA in enlarging places and moments for meeting and for a common formation as a contribution to the reconciliation of the two ethnic groups and to the actual possibility of their living together as brothers and sisters.

The majority of the population is baptized.

CONCRETE PROPOSALS

A. TO HELP the families who shelter the war-orphan and/or the AIDS-sicks: about 300 only in don Salvatore's parish. They have heavy financial problems even to survive, nevertheless they are willing to share their life with the little orphans who are to be fed, to be dressed, to be sent to school.

Bururi diocese can bear the costs for 50 orphans.

The yearly costs for every child is 1000 dollars.

For the other 250 children the adoption can be a way to support them.

B. TO HELP the parents who joined in building 12 classrooms in three places of the parish: Minago, Bururi, Kaganza. They have thought of "municipal schools".

There is indeed the problem of safety in sending the children to the secondary schools, which are 30/40 kms far.

The costs for building the classrooms are at these parents' charge: but they are able to contribute only for a part of them and ask for an integration. The government helps in providing teachers and books.

For each classroom: the parents are able to supply 4300 dollars.

They ask from us 3740 dollars (about 6 millions) for each classroom.

C. TO SUPPORT the CA's friends in their activities:

- Marches for the peace "together for the life" attended by minimum 200 CA people from all groups: 3500 dollars.
- Formation-seminars for the youth of all ethnic and political groups:
6 days for 60 participants,
at 3 dollars per day: 1080 dollars.
- Labour-camps for the youth:
14 days for 150 participants,
at 3 dollars per day: 6300 dollars.

All these proposals are being communicated to all CA-associations, IFCA's members, to strengthen the link of brotherhood on which IFCA's engagement is grounded.

The urgent problems in Burundi, the appeal from our CA friends at Bururi ask for our solidarity; the concrete actions suggested above allow to support formation-projects, educational choices which foster the values of living together, tolerance, brotherhood, all values that CA is committed to promote in every context.

Those who wish further information can apply directly to don Salvatore Niciteretse: fax 00257 502136, and/or to IFCA's Secretariat in Rome: tel. 0039 6 6868751 - fax 0039 6 68802088.

January 25th 1997